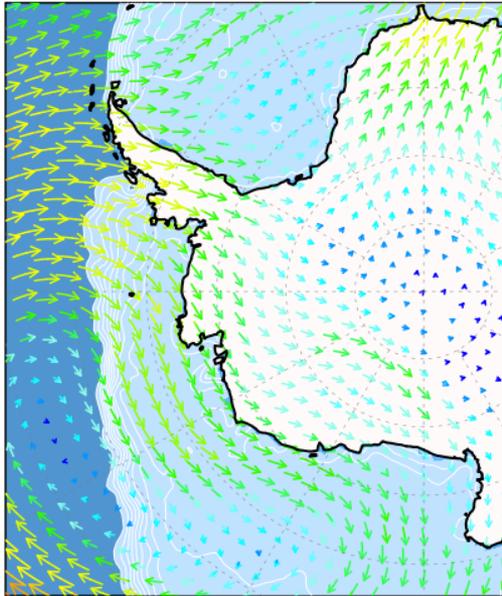
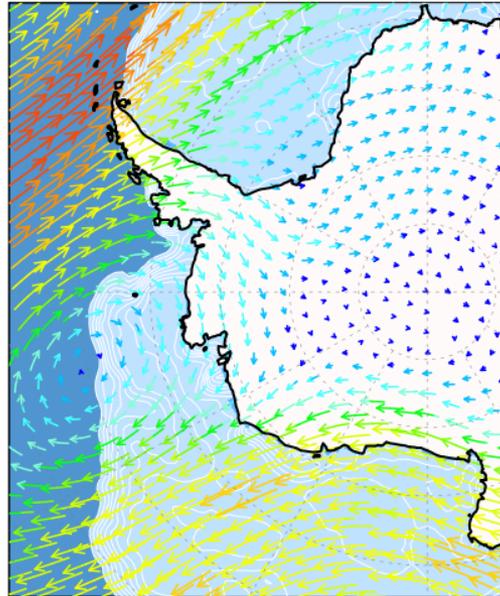


A New Minimum in Southern Hemisphere Sea Ice Extent

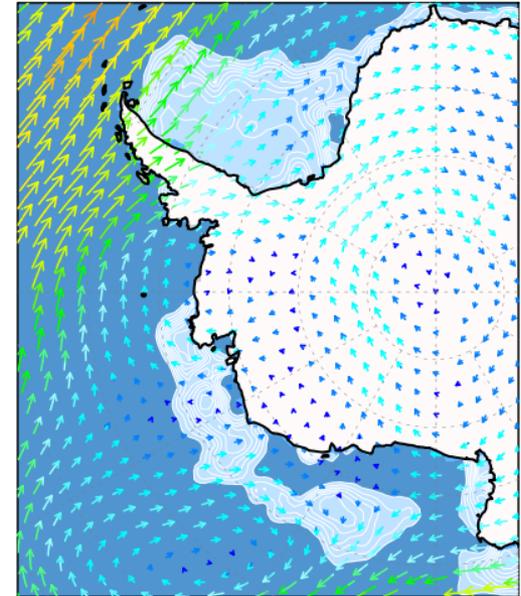
September 2022



November 2022



January 2023



In 2023, the sea ice cover surrounding Antarctica reached its seasonal low on February 19 of just under 1.8 million square km. This value is about 39 percent less than the 1981-2010 average, and eclipsed other recent years of low summertime sea ice cover. After a brief period of increase from 2011 to 2015, sea ice cover in the Southern Hemisphere has trended sharply downward. These figures, presenting multiple fields from MERRA-2, show the poleward advection of moist static energy onto, and to the west of, the Antarctic Peninsula. Sea ice cover is indicated with white contours.